

# 2024-2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



WITH OUR MUSIC, KIDS CAN!

KidLinks provides healing, hope, and happiness through the power of music.

## **Leading The Way**

### **STUART SIDES, PRESIDENT & CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

As KidLinks celebrates its 42nd anniversary, I am honored to reflect on a year defined by growth, resilience, and impact. The dedication of our board, staff, volunteers, Board-Certified Music Therapists, Therapeutic Music Entertainers, partners, and supporters continues to inspire us and drive our mission forward.

### 2025 has been a year of opportunity and achievement.

From record-breaking attendance at Hugapalooza and the 25th Energy Golf Classic to welcoming new board members and launching innovative therapeutic music initiatives, our team's commitment shines through every milestone. Our leadership has worked tirelessly to expand programming, deepen

community partnerships, and support our staff, volunteers, donors, and sponsors.

#### Financial stewardship remains a top priority.

In response to year-end budget challenges, our board revised and balanced the 2025 budget to ensure KidLinks' continued sustainability. With the generosity of sponsors and donors—through major pledges, new grants, and the launch of KidLinks' Foundation for the Future, our first endowment fund—we've made significant strides toward long-term security. These efforts strengthen existing programs and open new opportunities for 2026 and beyond.

#### Our programmatic impact continues to grow.

In the first half of 2025, KidLinks reached over 5,600 children, adults, and staff through Therapeutic Music Entertainment and provided more than 1,200 hours of Board-Certified Music Therapy to 337 children. Our ongoing TME Research Project, launched in 2024, is yielding valuable insights into the benefits of our services. We also completed 13 new and refreshed KidLinks songs, further enriching our library.

#### Looking ahead, our mission is clear.

We're proud to welcome new board members Leslie Tipping (Tipping Mineral Management) and Ted Zarrabi (Toyota Financial Services), and to welcome back Jim Markus (Haynes and Boone). Their diverse backgrounds, skills, and passion for service will make a significant impact and will help guide our next chapter.

KidLinks remains committed to linking children to healing, hope, and happiness through music and media. We will continue to innovate, expand our reach, and steward our resources with care. None of this is possible without YOU—our supporters, partners, and friends. Your belief in our mission fuels our progress and ensures our legacy endures.

Join us in shaping the future of KidLinks—together! With gratitude,



## **Leading The Way**

## **LEIGH TREVIÑO, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear KidLinks Community,

What an extraordinary year it has been! With deep gratitude and humility, we reflect on the milestones of 2024 and the first half of 2025. Together, we strengthened the connection between our partners and the children and families we serve, while also fostering meaningful relationships within our broader community and support network.



This season in KidLinks' history has been especially significant, as our direct services and impact have grown to their largest size ever, allowing us to reach more children and families across seven counties in North Texas. At the heart of all we do remains our commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible Therapeutic Music Entertainment and Board-Certified Music Therapy.

All of our achievements are made possible by the generosity of our individual donors, corporate partners, and grant funders, whose steadfast belief in our mission ensures that we can continue to change lives through the healing power of music.

We extend our deepest thanks to our Board of Directors, administrative staff, Therapeutic Music Entertainers, Board-Certified Music Therapists, review team, partners and dedicated volunteers. Each of you plays a vital role in shaping the future of KidLinks, and we look forward to continuing this journey—bringing hope, healing, and joy through music to thousands of children across North Texas and beyond. Thank you for your continued support and love.

With heartfelt gratitude,





## **Program & Highlights**

### **KIDLINKS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Through the dedicated efforts of KidLinks' staff, Therapeutic Music Entertainers, Board-Certified Music Therapists, volunteers, partner organizations, and supporters, the organization has strengthened our capacity to operate with greater collaboration, creativity, and intentionality in advancing our mission of providing therapeutic music services, resources and access to families most in need. This report details the significant achievements in our Therapeutic Music Entertainment® (TME) and Board-Certified Music Therapy (MT) programs over the past eighteen months.

Our commitment to fostering healing, hope, and happiness for children and families remains steadfast, as evidenced by the expansion of service locations across North Texas, the development of new strategic partnerships, and the enhancement of KidLinks.org as a platform for delivering high-quality therapeutic music resources.

## **MISSION MOMENT**

"We have noticed so many positive changes in our little one from the moment she began music therapy. Her curiosity shines in every visit and as a parent those moments are so special to hear her joy. When our daughter was diagnosed with delays, we were told she may never walk or talk but to hear her sing, to watch her coordinate her hands, to play a drum, to see her recognize her abilities and learn along with such a dedicated therapist is so incredibly beautiful. We will always share our support for KidLinks because we have been able to witness the remarkable growth that may have never been, had we never had the opportunity. Thank you to everyone who makes this opportunity possible."

- Parent of MT Client, Fort Worth



## THERAPEUTIC MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT® (TME)

### **Expanding In-Person Direct Services**

KidLinks musicians continue to bring joy and healing through recurring performances at long-standing partner sites including Bryan's House, Chase's Place, Children's Health Dallas and Plano, Cook Children's Medical Center, Jonathan's Place, Klyde Warren Park, Medical City Children's Dallas, and Scottish Rite for Children.

In 2024, our reach brought KidLinks' unique therapeutic music experiences to more communities through new partnerships with:





Our annual community celebration, Hugapalooza, is a free sing-along concert designed to thank families, partners, and supporters. Held at Klyde Warren Park, our 2024 event featured an incredible lineup of talent, including KidLinks Therapeutic Music Entertainers, Musical Storytime Puppet Show, and internationally recognized soul singer-songwriter and U.S. Cultural Ambassador & Texas Touring Roster musical artist, Kamica King. We also hosted a Children's Resource Fair for attendees to learn about vital services in DFW for families of children with special needs, as well as kids with all abilities.



### **Creating New Music**

To meet the evolving needs of children today, KidLinks dedicated funding in 2024 toward creating new music and refreshing beloved classics in contemporary styles. Each new song undergoes review by our Volunteer Review Team to ensure developmental appropriateness and impact. An exciting compilation of 13 songs was completed this year!



1,300+ registered attendees

\$4,000

in sponsorships from ACES ABA, City of Dallas, and UMB Bank

Participation from
15 RESOURCE FAIR PARTNERS,
including It's A Sensory World, Uplift
Education, United Rocks, and more!

**Community Engagement** KidLinks shared live performances and resources at events including Autism Adventures' Autism Acceptance Resource Fair, Dallas ISD's Special Populations Expo, Glut 1 Deficiency Summit, KidLinks' Valentine's Day music tour with Metrocare, and AT&T Performing Arts Center's Spring 2024 Family Weekend series. In addition, we hosted a family sing-along concert featuring Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul, and Mary.

## **Program & Highlights**

#### Research & Innovation

In early 2024, KidLinks was awarded funding from the Garrison Family Foundation to initiate the Therapeutic Music Entertainment® (TME) Research Project: Implementing Therapeutic Music Experiences in Pediatric Outpatient Care – Process and Outcome Evaluation.

Developed and led by Dr. Daniel Tague, Chair of Music Therapy at Southern Methodist University, this study is designed to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of TME in meeting the psychosocial needs of children in hospital and specialized care environments.

In partnership with Scottish Rite for Children, the study launched in Fall 2024 with surveys distributed to patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and musicians. These surveys are intended to capture experiences, identify needs, and measure outcomes, providing valuable insights to strengthen KidLinks' therapeutic music programming. Beyond data collection, the process also encourages participants to reflect on their experiences and build positive emotional associations with therapeutic music.

Looking ahead, data collection will continue through Fall 2025, with Chase's Place joining the study as an additional partner site. This expansion reflects KidLinks' ongoing commitment to advancing research and ensuring that therapeutic music services remain responsive, impactful, and evidence-based.

### **BOARD-CERTIFIED MUSIC THERAPY (MT)**

### Individualized Care Through Music

KidLinks' Board-Certified Music Therapists work closely with each child to understand their unique strengths and needs, creating individualized treatment plans that use music to support growth in cognition, communication, physical development, social interaction, emotional regulation, and behavioral skills. Families are offered up to 16 weeks of free one-on-one sessions, with additional subsidized services available based on income and therapist recommendations. The program is open to children and youth ages 2–18.

Today, KidLinks' dedicated team of seven Board-Certified Music Therapists serves between 80–100 children each week through both one-on-one and group sessions. Services are delivered at a variety of locations to increase accessibility. They include:

- Home practices in Arlington, Fort Worth, and Denton
- Disciple City Church in Oak Cliff
- Lifeologie in Midlothian
- J.W. Brown Music Therapist-in-Residence Program in Dallas at Southern Methodist University
- Partner sites at Heart House, Chase's Place, and Parkland Burn Center

By offering services in multiple settings, KidLinks is committed to ensuring equitable access to high-quality, affordable music therapy across North Texas, helping remove financial and geographic barriers so more children and families can benefit from the healing power of music.

### Southwestern Region of the American Music Therapy Association (SWAMTA) Conference

KidLinks was honored to be a part of the Southwestern Region of the American Music Therapy Association (SWAMTA) 2025 Conference, where our organization's

presence was highlighted on swag bags, lanyards, and the digital program reaching nearly 300 attendees. In addition to hosting an exhibitor booth and building meaningful connections with music therapy professionals, educators, and students, KidLinks proudly celebrated a major milestone as our own Music Therapist, Debbie Dacus, MA, MT-BC, delivered the conference's keynote address. KidLinks has been previously honored by SWAMTA with



KidLinks.org serves as a comprehensive hub for Therapeutic Music Entertainment® (TME) and Music Therapy (MT) resources. The site is fully accessible, mobile-friendly, and designed to support families, child life specialists, music therapists, and early childhood professionals. Whether accessed from a hospital, clinic, or home, users can explore more than 250 free songs, animations, instrumental tracks, and videos—all available for streaming free of charge anytime, day or night.

their "Friend of Music Therapy" Award.

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS (S-ES) RESOURCE

The Social-Emotional Skills (S-ES) Resource is a curated digital platform that combines music, animations, and downloadable guidebooks to support social-emotional learning. This innovative musical toolkit is made available to schools, childcare centers, community programs, and organizations serving children with unique challenges, helping to strengthen emotional growth and resilience through the power of music.





## KIDLINKS BY THE NUMBERS



### DIRECT SERVICES

#### 2024

### **TME Programming**

11,468 children, adults, and staff reached

12 community partners & service locations

### **MT Programming**

112 children receiving 1:1 MT services 1,901 hours of music therapy sessions

provided

locations
(6 stand alone
clinics & 3 partner
locations)

9 clinic

## Jan-June 2025: TME Programming

**5,690** children, adults, and staff reached

**12** community partners & service locations

### **MT Programming**

337 children receiving 1:1 MT services

1,241
hours
of music
therapy sessions
provided

locations
(6 stand alone
clinics & 3 partner
locations)

9 clinic

## **KidLinks.org & Music Analytics**

## TOTAL Page Views

2024: 6,123 Jan-June 2025: 1,667

KidLinks-ses.org

**2024:** 86,470

Jan-June 2025:

45,606

KidLinks.org



## Music Platforms: 2024 Total Watch, Streams, Plays

7,577
Plays
SOUNDCLOUD
PLAYS

43,470
HOURS OF YOUTUBE

WATCHED

3,135
SPOTIFY
STREAMS

54,182

COMBINED ONLINE

VIEWS WATCH

COMBINED ONLINI
VIEWS, WATCH,
STREAMS &
PLAYS



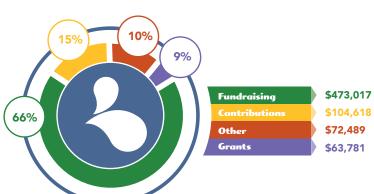


## 2024 Revenue \$713,905

#### **Includes:**

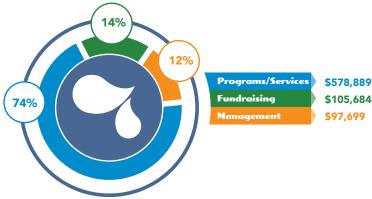
\$63,781 from Grant Awards including:

- ~ \$5,000 from Theodore & Beulah Beasley Foundation
- ~ \$5,000 from Orchid Giving Circle
- ~ \$9,385 from Communities Foundation of Texas
- ~ \$14,396 from Anonymous
- ~ \$15,000 from Garrison Family Foundation
- ~ \$15,000 from Anonymous



## 2024 Expenses \$782,271

Expenses exceeding revenue included strategic investments to support future growth and excellence of our mission.



## **Ways To Give**

Through the generosity of our friends and supporters, KidLinks has served nearly 450,000 children and caregivers in the last 42 years. **Now is your chance to be a part of our next chapter!**There are many ways to give, and your gift will have far-reaching effects. Connect with us today and learn how we can create a plan that is right for you!

## HARMONIZE WITH US: Make a one-time gift to "fund-a-need" for KidLinks

- \$5,000 Can support the creation of a new animated video
- \$1,000 Can sponsor a music festival at a special care center
- \$500 Can support funding the recording of a new therapeutic song
- \$250 Can support 1 month of clinical Musical Therapy for a child
- \$50 Can support 1 Therapeutic Music Entertainment performance
- \$10 Can provide 3 child-size rhythm instruments for sing-along

## KIDLINKS GIVING GUILD: Monthly & recurring gifts

Want an easy way to be a steadfast supporter? Join the KidLinks Giving Guild! You can choose your gift as a monthly, quarterly, or yearly contribution through kidlinks.org/donate. Your continual gift will make a significant impact in supporting the amazing work being done by our Therapeutic Music Entertainers and Music Therapists.

• Singing Star: \$250/month

**Giving Levels:** 

- Harmony Hero: \$100/month
- Melody Mate: \$25/month
- Chorus Companion: \$10/month
- Percussion Pal: \$5/month



## **Ways to Give**



#### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**North Texas Giving Day-KidLinks:** Support KidLinks through the annual North Texas Giving Day! NTGD is the largest community-wide giving day in the country.

**Symphony of Chefs:** Symphony of Chefs is an evening of culinary composition benefiting KidLinks. Guests enjoy a prepared & interactive four-course dinner created tableside by one of DFW's most notable chefs, alongside wine pairings from some of the world's best vineyards, a silent auction, and much more! Symphony of Chefs is typically held in February each year.

**Energy Golf Classic:** This annual tournament is one of the most notable energy-specific networking opportunities in North Texas. It provides companies a way to make a difference in the community and serves as a conduit for generating positive community awareness about the energy industry.

## Leave A Legacy: Bestow a lasting gift to support KidLinks' programming and mission

- Give to KidLinks' endowment, the Foundation for the Future:
   By contributing to this fund, you are ensuring that KidLinks will continue its vital mission of sharing the healing power of music.
- Donor Advised Fund (DAF): Choose KidLinks as a recipient of your DAF.
- Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your Retirement
   Account: People 70.5 and older can donate funds from their IRA
   accounts directly to KidLinks. This type of gift is called a Qualified
   Charitable Distribution, or QCD. Donating a QCD will count
   towards your Required Minimum Distribution or RMD, which
   can help save on your income tax.
- Make an Honorarium or Memorial Gift: Designate your gift to
  KidLinks to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or
  graduation in honor of a special friend or family member!
  Memorial gifts may also be made in memory of your loved one.
  We will acknowledge your gift to the recipient or donor.
- Matching Gift: Double your donation with a corporate matching gift program! Many companies offer matching gift programs for their employees. Check with your human resources department for more information on matching your donation to KidLinks.
- Party with a Purpose: Make KidLinks a beneficiary of your party by requesting donations for your birthday, anniversary, or "just because!" Hosting your own fundraising party for KidLinks is a fun way to make a huge impact!
- Policy Beneficiary: Leave a bequest in your will to support KidLinks or name KidLinks as a co-beneficiary in a life insurance policy.



### **MISSION MOMENT**

"Chaim, who has low muscle tone and a cortical delay, is encouraged to shake the maracas in his hands and the bells on his ankles. We're working on increasing his gross motor movement and decreasing his response time. He often begins and ends the session standing at the piano, which he plays with one hand rocking back and forth on the keys. This creates a sort of musical pattern I can play beside him to encourage more personal interactions. When he likes a music strategy, he continues playing for a long time but if he doesn't, he stops immediately and throws down the instruments. It's not bad behavior but his only way of letting me know. I would say for Chaim, 'I am encouraged by music I like and have my way of communicating my preferences!"

– Music Therapist,Tonya Lincoln, MA, MT-BC

## **Time & Talent**

## KidLinks is grateful for our wonderful Board of Directors and the Time, Talent and Treasure they give!

#### **Board of Directors**

Stuart Sides, President, Board Chairman BGSF Workforce Solutions

Lindsey Wyrick, Secretary Cobb Martinez Woodward PLLC

Daryl Stafford, Treasurer UMB Bank

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Leslie Tipping
Tipping Mineral Management

Melanie Wells, LPC, LMFT Lifeologie / LISPY / Yogazama

Ted Zarrabi
Toyota Financial Services

### **KidLinks Advisory Council**

J.W. Brown
Premier Capital Ltd.

Noel Paul Stookey Artistic Advisor Emeritus

#### KidLinks Team

Leigh Treviño
Interim Executive Director

Paul Pass Director of Development

Kimberly Ballard-Madison
Director of Marketing & Partnerships

Jim Newton Founder

Laura Ingrim
Marketing Communications Specialist

Bob Grega Grants & Development Coordinator



## Music Therapists Maria Beltran, MT-BC

Sara Chigani, MA, MT-BC, FAMI Debbie Dacus, MA, MT-BC Tina Farquhar, MT-BC Gina G. Glidewell, MT-BC Cora Lansdowne, MME, MT-BC

Tonya Lincoln, MA, MT-BC

### **Therapeutic Music Entertainers**

Maria Beltran
Gracie Gonzalez
Josh Ingram
Rick Mang
Jim Newton
Andy Sperandeo
Larry Dykstra - Lead TME Volunteer

You can read more about our team on our Leadership page at KidLinks.org

## Honor & Memory

#### In Honor of

Lisa and Stuart Sides

Melissa Graham & Jim Newton

Lisa & Stuart Sides

Melissa Graham & Jim Newton

Melissa Graham & Jim Newton

Robert Carlin

Laura Ingrim

Melissa Graham and Jim Newton

Melissa Graham & Jim Newton

Linda & Alan Keenum

Melissa Graham & Jim Newton

Lynn Johnson

Melissa Graham & Jim Newton

Lisa & Stuart Sides

Mark Lambertsen

Ben Fisk

Cambron E. Fisk

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J.W. Brown

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J.W. Brown

J.W. Brown

Melissa Graham & Jim Newton

### Given By

**Brian Austin** 

Judi Baxter

Jana Boswell

James Bourne

Brianna Brown

J.W. Brown

Allison Cheadle-Gandhi

April Culver

**Grant Hollingsworth** 

Lvnn Johnson

Lynn Johnson

Linda Keenum

Kama Koudelka

Deborah LeMoine-Hickey

Paul Lambertsen

Janice & Phil Luebbehusen

Janice & Phil Luebbehusen

Jeff Phillips

**Darrel Rice** 

**Bradley & Kimberly Rogers** 

Lauren Schuchart

Kimberly Wilson

Rev. Brian & Carol Young

### In Memory of — Given By

Reid Bechtle

Karen Bogle

Sarah Young

Kyle Hampton Jack

Cambron E. Fisk

Robbie M

**Grant Hollingsworth** 

**Grant Hollingsworth** 

**Bob Bogle** 

**Bob Bogle** 

James Bucek

Lauran & Andrew Jack

Janice & Phil Luebbehusen

Jessica Oehrlein

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UMB Bank
Uplift Education
Urban Energy Funds
Vaquero Midstream
Verdad Resources LLC
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WAFD Bank

Andrew and Wendy Warden

Bill & Pat Webb Melanie Wells Wells Fargo Marie Williams

Willkie Farr and Gallagher LLP

Kimberly Wilson Linda Wilson Winstead PC Winston & Strawn Isabella Wojnovich Alec Woodmansee Lindsey Wyrick

Rev. Brian and Carol Young

Michael Zincone



KidLinks music gives kids a healthy, safe, and positive way to connect with their emotions. Through our TME and MT direct services, KidLinks.org online resources, and S-ES platform—generously supported by donors and grantors—KidLinks is positively impacting the lives of specially-challenged kids every day!

#### **MISSION MOMENT**

Before I walked into the hospital room, a pastor was sharing Bible verses with the patient and the patient's mother. I entered and began playing a song for the young and joyful child. As I finished the song, "If I Could," I noticed the mother was in tears. She began thanking me for such a beautiful song and that it was what they really needed to hear at that moment. The pastor remarked, "Wow, this is exactly what we were talking about a minute ago."

Andy Sperandeo, Therapeutic Music Entertainer



## www.KidLinks.org



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KidLinks.org/donate

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